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LETTER DATED 22 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Statement of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia, Georgia, reflecting the latter's resentment at the participation of the delegation of the self-proclaimed "Republic of Abkhazia" in the meeting of one of the economic-oriented associations of the Russian Federation (see annex).

May I ask your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, Georgia

(Tbilisi, 19 February 1999)

From 5 to 7 February, 1999, the Association for the Social and Economic Cooperation of the Republics and Regions of the North Caucasus held its regular session, under Chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Gustov.

The Delegation of the self-proclaimed "Republic of Abkhazia" headed by V. Ardzinba participated in the work of the above session.

The session, among other matters, has considered the "economic and social situation in Abkhazia" and decided to further strengthen the ties of the separatist controlled region, with the adjacent Russian districts of Stavropol and Krasnodar. The participants of the session have also demanded that the strict customs and border regime along the Psou river be abolished.

The Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, Georgia, expresses its strong protest in this regard, and demands that the Russian Federation put an end to the exercising of its jurisdiction in the territory of the sovereign Georgia, occupied by the separatist regime. This attempt must be considered as a gross violation of the decisions of the Security Council and of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

All this once again makes clear that there is no political will in the Russian Federation to conduct civilized and good neighborly relations with Georgia and that the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons with the help of the Russian Federation in nothing but a sham.

The Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, Georgia, appeals to the United Nations and to the Friends of the Secretary-General, to take all measures to curb the ongoing aggression against Georgia and to make all efforts for reinstating peace in the Caucasus.